

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An adaptive method for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in an active task being accessed by a user on a data processing system, each of the plurality of text items having a plurality of attributes, the method comprising the machine-executed steps of:

(a)—receiving information related to the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user;

for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, identifying each of the plurality of attributes based on the received information related to the plurality of text items;

(b)—for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, assigning a weight to each of the plurality of attributes, wherein at least two of the plurality of attributes are assigned different weights;

(c)—for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, calculating an accumulated weight by accumulating the weight assigned to each of the plurality of attributes; [[and]]

(d)—ranking the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user based on the accumulated weight of each of the plurality of text items; and generating the representative text items based on a result of the ranking step;
wherein the active task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of attributes includes at least one of style, font size, and location of the text item.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein a weight assigned to a word is increased in response to the word located being located in a specific region.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the specific region is an active window being viewed by a user or a region selected by the user.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further forming a plurality of search terms based on a result of the ranking step.

6. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in an active task, task being accessed by a user on a data processing system, each of the plurality of text items having a plurality of attributes, the system comprising:

a data processor for processing data;

a data storage device for storing instructions; and

a data transmission path coupled to the data processor and the data storage device;

wherein the instructions, when executed by the data processor, controls the data processing system to perform the machine-implemented steps of:

(a) — receiving information related to the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user;

for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, identifying each of the plurality of attributes based on the received information;

(b) — for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, assigning a weight to each of the plurality of attributes, wherein at least two of the plurality of attributes are assigned different weights;

(c) — for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, calculating an accumulated weight by accumulating the weight assigned to each of the plurality of attributes; and

(d) — ranking the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user based on the accumulated weight of each of the plurality of texts; and
generating the representative text items based on a result of the ranking step;
wherein the active task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the plurality of attributes includes at least one of style, font size, and location of the text item.

8. (Original) The system of claim 6 further forming a plurality of search terms based on a result of the ranking step.

9. (Currently Amended) A tangible machine-readable medium bearing instructions for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in an active task being accessed by a user on a data processing system, each of the plurality of text items having a

plurality of attributes, the instructions upon execution by a data processing system causing the data processing system to perform the steps of:

- (a) — receiving information related to the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user;
for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, identifying each of the plurality of attributes based on the received information;
- (b) — for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, assigning a weight to each of the plurality of attributes, wherein at least two of the plurality of attributes are assigned different weights;
- (c) — for each of the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user, calculating an accumulated weight by accumulating the weight assigned to each of the plurality of attributes; [[and]]
- (d) — ranking the plurality of text items in the active task being accessed by the user based on the accumulated weight of each of the plurality of texts; and
generating the representative text items based on the ranking of the plurality of text items;
wherein the active task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claims 10 and 11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A method for retrieving information related to the context of a data collection including a plurality of text items, wherein each of the plurality of text items has a plurality of attributes, the method comprising the machine-executed steps of:

- (a) for each of the plurality of text items, identifying each of the plurality of attributes;
- (b) for each of the plurality of text items, assigning a weight to each of the plurality of attributes, wherein at least two of the plurality of attributes are assigned different weights;
- (c) for each of the plurality of text items, calculating an accumulated weight by accumulating the weight assigned to each of the plurality of attributes;
- (d) ranking the plurality of text items based on the accumulated weight of each of the plurality of text items;
- (e) generating a set of search terms containing a predetermined number of text items based on rankings of the plurality of text items; and
- (f) initiating an information retrieval process using ~~based-on~~ the set of search terms to retrieve data from a data source other than the data collection.

13. (Currently amended) A tangible machine-readable medium bearing instructions for retrieving files that are related to the context of a data collection including a plurality of text items, wherein each of the plurality of text items has a plurality of attributes, the instructions upon execution by a data processing system controlling the data processing system to perform the machine-executed steps of:

- (a) for each of the plurality of text items, identifying each of the plurality of attributes;
- (b) for each of the plurality of text items, assigning a weight to each of the plurality of attributes, wherein at least two of the plurality of attributes are assigned different weights;
- (c) for each of the plurality of text items, calculating an accumulated weight by accumulating the weight assigned to each of the plurality of attributes;

- (d) ranking the plurality of text items based on the accumulated weight of each of the plurality of text items;
- (e) generating a set of search terms containing a predetermined number of text items based on rankings of the plurality of text items; and
- (f) initiating an information retrieval process ~~based on using~~ the set of search terms, to retrieve data from a data source other than the data collection.

Claims 14-29 (Cancelled)

30. (New) The method of claim 1 further including the step of determining properties of the active task;

wherein the assigned weight is tunable based on the properties of the active task.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the properties of the active task include at least one of application software being employed to perform the active task, the type or genre of the active task, attributes related to the user manipulating the active task, properties of an information source on which a search will be conducted, and the state of the active task.

32. (New) The system of claim 6, wherein:

the instructions, when executed by the data processor, further control the data processing system to determine properties of the active task; and
the assigned weight is tunable based on the properties of the active task.

33. (New) The system of claim 32, wherein the properties of the active task include at least one of application software being employed to perform the active task, the type or genre of the active task, attributes related to the user manipulating the active task, properties of an information source on which a search will be conducted, and the state of the active task.

34. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein:
the instructions upon execution by a data processing system cause the data processing system to determine properties of the active task; and
the assigned weight is tunable based on the properties of the active task.

35. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the properties of the active task include at least one of application software being employed to perform the active task, the type or genre of the active task, attributes related to the user manipulating the active task, properties of an information source on which a search will be conducted, and the state of the active task.